

STATINTL

Next on Tap: Dodd's Campaign Funds

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The second — and, perhaps the more important — phase of the Senate Ethics Committee's investigation into misconduct charges against Sen. Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.) is next on deck.

It involves money — money collected for Sen. Dodd's Senate campaigns, and the way it was spent.

This involves careful checking of campaign records and perhaps bank files. It is being done slowly. But, Ethics Committee Chairman John Stennis (D., Miss.) said, "Steady and consistent progress is being made."

He did not say when the second phase of the Dodd case

will be opened to public hearings, but it may be about mid-August.

John F. Sonnett, Sen. Dodd's chief legal counsel, said the question of campaign finances was beyond the jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee. He said he expected the committee to agree with him but indicated he might challenge an adverse ruling by attempting to take it to the Senate floor.

The inquiry's first phase — pegged to the unique relationship between Sen. Dodd and his long-time friend, Julius Klein ended late yesterday after Gen. Klein testified.

Altho the Committee's record does not include it, the press was given a detailed denial by

Gen. Klein of virtually every charge made in their columns by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson, whose articles started the investigation.

Gen. Klein answered the bulk of the charges with the word "lie."

Picturing himself as a man whose reputation had been damaged by foreign press reports of a previous Senate hearing, Mr. Klein said he had "a perfect right to ask Sen. Dodd or any U.S. senator to correct a wrong."

He added: "This is my right as a private citizen. They (the senators) can ignore it, or rebuke it, or throw me out of the office if they want to."